

Charles L. Moore
Editor

A PERPLEXING SITUATION.

Gov. Knorr's letter to the Legislature on the penitentiary question discloses a most remarkable state of affairs in that institution. All the machinery, implements, and even the beds on which the convicts sleep belong to the contractors. The State owns the buildings, the boilers and engines and a few old hemp looms, and nothing else. The State does not own a pound of meat or an ounce of flour on which to feed the convicts, and there is not a dollar's worth of material on which to employ the convicts, and to "cap the climax" the State has no money with which to pay anything. It will cost \$370 a day to feed the convicts and pay expenses, or \$137,304 for a year. The constitution prohibits the State from borrowing another dollar; claims against the treasury have already been deferred six months; every cent that is expected to be available for sixty days must go to the school fund, and what is the State going to do with the convicts in the meantime?

There is manifestly nothing that can be done but to let them starve to death or for the Governor to turn every one of them loose on the community by wholesale pardons.

The next best thing might be for the Legislature to enact a law providing for the convicts to be turned out on a "ticket-of-leave," as it is termed in England. By this form of furlough the English convicts are, on good behavior, turned out of prison, and required to report to certain officials at stated times. They may be turned into any jail on proof of bad conduct, and the "ticket-of-leave" is thereby revoked.

In this exceedingly perplexing situation in the Kentucky penitentiary the Legislature might provide for a "ticket-of-leave" for all convicts in for crimes other than treason, murder, arson and rape, and thus find relief in the only possible way that is visible. This is rendered more imperative from the fact that when Mason & Co., return the leased convicts there will be fully 1,100 within the walls of the penitentiary. On this point Gov. Knorr says: "This, in my judgment, would be a popular calamity. It suggests possibilities at which humanity revolts with instinctive horror. There are, all told, 744 cells in the penitentiary for male prisoners. Of these but 648 are available, and they are barely sufficient for one convict each. The remaining 96 are totally unfit for occupancy except in the mildest weather. Therefore, unless some provisions shall be made for their accommodation, over 1,000 convicts must be crowded into quarters scarcely sufficient for 648. In other words, over 700 human beings must be manured by couples in cells only 3 ft. 9 inches wide, 6 ft. 3 inches high and 6 feet 8 inches long, furnishing under the most favorable circumstances air sufficient for a single person only. If you would realize the terrible results which must ensue from such condition of things, you have but to refer to the horrible history of squalor, misery, crime, disease and death disclosed by the investigation of the condition of the penitentiary made by your predecessors in the winter of 1879-80."

With such facts staring them in the face we do not see why legislators should hesitate a moment in adopting the "ticket-of-leave" plan. It would probably set loose 75 per cent of the convicts who are in for minor offenses, and give the State a breathing spell and an opportunity to make suitable provision for the poor wretches who fall into the clutches of the law.

But, no matter what is done, the Legislature should abolish the old lease system, by which convict labor is brought into ruinous competition with the honest wage-workers of our State.

The House of Representatives was disbanded again yesterday to enable

the architect to place props under the floor. The legislators will carry soft cushions and step-ladders hereafter; the former to make the fall easy and the latter to enable them to climb out after the stiffs under the floor give away.

It looks as if the State officers in connection with Mason & Co., are determined to bully the Legislature into dismissing penitentiary Warden South. The Board dismissed South, who went to work and secured the sympathy of the Legislature; the Governor and the other members of the Board standing too high on their dignity to endeavor to have their side of the case presented to the Legislators. Now that South has been vindicated by the Legislature the convict lessees hasten to announce their determination of throwing off on their contract, well knowing the situation in which they thereby place the State, and doubtless relying on this as a means of compelling the Legislature to turn South out. The Governor suddenly sees the perplexities of the situation and delivers a message to the Legislature describing its horrors in graphic language. He doubtless knows all the facts just as well a month ago as he does to-day, and the withdrawal of Mason & Co., coupled with his message, seems to convey the plain hint that the Legislature can do only one thing, and that is dismiss South.

The question is a tough one. If the Legislature does not want to tangle on its record, it can provide a "ticket-of-leave" law, which is about all that is left for it to do. This would be an experiment that would be watched with decided interest, but it is the only visible way out of the dilemma. It is the penalty for incompetent and botchwork legislation, and is notice to the people that they will best serve their interests by electing good and judicious men to the Legislature hereafter.

It was while Judge MULLIGAN was speaking that the State House floor began to wobble. This is a great compliment to the Judge's powers of oratory, and we leave faith in his ability to shake the capital over to Lexington. In the language of TANDY HOGGERS, "the Judge is a hummer." All that Lexington can desire is for him to keep pegging away at Capital removal.

The Law and Order Club of wicked Cincinnati has gained a victory of the greatest importance to their cause. The Governor has removed the corrupt police commissioners who refused to allow the arrest of theatrical people who violated the Sunday laws by giving Sunday entertainments. This is giving the devil another black eye. Lay on, SAM JONES!

Hon. M. C. ALFORD has introduced in the State Senate a bill to amend the charter of Lexington. We are informed that it provides for a Board of Aldermen, a Police and Fire Commission, and an extension of the time for paying the capitation tax, in addition to some other items of minor importance. The bill was prepared after due consultation with many well-posted citizens of Lexington, and it will doubtless pass both Houses in time to select officers in March.

The Right Thing to do.
The Frankfort Correspondent of the *Cincinnati Commonwealth* says: "From bridges to breaks is a transition easily made, especially to one who stood in the lobby the other day when the floor of the House began to wobble. Col. Mulligan was speaking at the time, and as the shaking continued, and the occupants of the lobbies fled in dismay, the gallant Colonel moved that the balance of the session be held in the new courthouse in the beautiful Blue-grass city of Lexington. The motion didn't prevail, but the motion to adjourn till to-morrow did. Meanwhile, an architect is examining to see how big the bill can be made for repairs. Two years ago the east side of the Chamber, just over Tom Henry's deputy's office, gave way and was propped up. This year the west end sinks, and the supposition is that the floor is playing both ends against the middle, as has been done by the Legislators for a long time. If, however, the tumbling and cracking of the old shell continues until the building lies a mass of ruins, much thanks would be due. The way would be open for a removal to Lexington, and an escape from the Frankfort malaria, which is too far above proof."

The Turkey crop.
The firm of Speyer Bros. have collected during the last three months in Central Kentucky 110,000 pounds of body turkey feathers and 40,000 pounds of quills. The vast number of these fine fowls raised in this section can be estimated when the fact is known that a single bird does not produce more than a half pound of feathers.

OUR SENATE.

What this Branch of the Legislature is Doing.

A Bill Looking to Increased Taxation Of Banks.

OTHER BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 3.—Leave was granted to bring in the following bills:

A bill to require persons selling oleomargarine to disclose its true character and sell it as such. Public Health.

A bill requiring all banks in the Commonwealth to list and pay taxes on the fair cash value of all their real and personal property for State, county and municipal purposes at the same rate that is now assessed and collected, or which may hereafter be assessed and collected from other real and personal property in this State, any privileges in any charter to the contrary notwithstanding. Judiciary.

House Bill No. 165, making seduction a felony, was taken up. Passed. Mr. Bryan presented a communication from Mason-Ford Company, lessees of the convict labor of the State, addressed to the General Assembly of Kentucky, which, after objection, was ordered read for information. The communication renewed the demand for release of lessees from their contract for convict labor, for certain reasons stated therein. Mr. Hays moved to refer the communication to the Committee on Penitentiary. Adopted.

A bill to regulate the traffic in spirituous, vinous or malt liquors in this Commonwealth, was taken up from the special orders. Mr. Berry moved to consider the bill in Committee of the whole. Adopted. Mr. Berry was called to the chair and the Senate went into Committee of the whole. Mr. Bash moved that the Committee rise, and that it be reported to the Senate that the Committee desire that the bill be referred to the Committee on Judiciary or its opinion as to the constitutionality of the bill. Adopted. A bill to amend the charter of the Franklin Insurance Company of Louisville. Passed.

Mr. Taubee called up a joint resolution inquiring into the expediency of re-districting the State into judicial districts, and the amendment proposed by the House. The Senate concurred in the amendment of the House.

A bill to punish certain offenses by stripes reported adversely. Motion was made striking out all offenses but wife-beating. On motion of Mr. Gilbert the bill and amendments were recommitted to Committee on General Statutes.

House Bill No. 397, relating to the amendment of the charter of the town of Winchester. Passed. Mr. Burnett, General Statutes.—A bill providing for the recording of attachments in certain cases, with amendment, and the Senate then adjourned.

TO THE READERS AND FRIENDS OF THE BLADE.

A number of persons have kindly asked me to send them my paper and I have kept a list of their names, but until the time of its first issue I have solicited no subscribers. The circulation of the BLADE will therefore be begun by being sent to the persons who may receive it, hoping, of course, that they will pay me for it, but claiming no advantage of the newspaper law which I deem an unjust one, which requires one to pay for a paper that he may take from an office, and which may have been sent to him without his order. To such persons as conclude to take the BLADE, I would say that I will thank them to remit to me or hand me the one dollar subscription money at their earliest convenience. To those who feel doubtful about the propriety of taking the paper I would say that I will take it as a kindness if they will allow it to come to them until they determine about it, and then inform me accordingly. The BLADE will be sent with this understanding to the almost entire list who subscribed to the Lexington Daily Observer through my solicitation, and to another list that I have made out from others generally resident in the country and adjoining towns of the Bluegrass Region, and to various remote parts of the United States. It is my purpose in this way regularly to extend the circulation of the BLADE each week, and I will be glad if my personal friends, or the friends of the BLADE, will suggest to me orally or by note, the names of persons to whom I might send it on the conditions with some probability of gaining their patronage. I think the public may safely regard the BLADE as being upon a permanent foundation, and I will take pleasure in giving any information with reference thereto that may be asked of me.

Money Wanted.
All knowing themselves indebted to us will please call and settle, as we must have our money. All accounts that have been standing six months or longer, if not paid in 30 days, will be placed in the hands of a collector for settlement.

A. B. CHINN & CO.
A. B. Chinn & Co. are selling out household goods at cost to reduce stock.

THE "BEAUTIFUL."

The Heaviest Snowfall in Many Years.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4.—The storm continued with little abatement all night, and it is undoubtedly the worst storm New York has experienced since 1878, streets being rapidly filled with snow and the street cars are pulled along with great difficulty. A strike upon a number of the roads tends to overcrowd the elevated roads.

LYSCENBURG, Va., Feb. 4.—The snow is twelve inches deep, and all railroad communication is interrupted. Reports from the Southwestern portion of the State indicate unparalleled storms, the snow being from two to three feet deep.

BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 4.—The snowfall here is seventeen inches deep, being the heaviest since 1856. Trains from every direction are delayed, and navigation on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries is entirely suspended.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—To-day there are reports that snow is drifting on some of the roads, and it is to be that more trouble will be given by the drifts in cuts, but everything will be done to keep the roads open. All the western trains due here last night arrived about four hours late, those arriving this morning are an hour late.

CAPITAL REMOVAL.

The Proposition Has Received More Favor This Winter Than Ever Before.

The Buildings a Disgrace to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

From the Frankfort Capital.

A number of circumstances have conspired of late to put the Legislature in a bad humor, and agitate that aged question, the "Capital removal." It is not the Capital Newspaper, or the Capital Brewery, or the Capital Hotel, or the Capital Photograph Gallery, but the Capital City, that they talk about removing. The proposition has received more favor this winter than ever before, because, as friends of the removal state, the present accommodations for legislative work are wholly inadequate, and will never be replaced by better ones, as long as the seat of Government remains where it is. The difficulty that lies in the way of moving the Capital is a financial one. The State cannot afford the expense incident to such an undertaking, at this time. In answer to this it is urged that either Lexington or Louisville will undertake the entire expense of removal, or of providing suitable buildings, and donate, besides, the ground to the State. The present Capital is a disgrace to the State, and a number of Legislators have patriotically announced that they will vote for anything proposed, rather than consign them selves or their successors to another term within its walls.

A Black Eye for Local Opinion.
MADISON, Wis., Feb. 4.—A decision was rendered in the State Supreme Court yesterday which the leading attorneys claim will have the effect of annulling local opinion in this State. It was a case where beer is kept by a brewer and delivered to customers by their agent, may be done under United States law, and it was claimed that the sale was made at the brewery and not at the agent's residence. The Supreme court upholds the view.

Bob Indignant.
Col. Bob Sandusky is indignant at the newspapers for publishing the report that he suicided. Although no one wants to die, we think Col. Bob ought to feel complimented over the number of nice obituary notices he received. If ever a man was sent on the long journey in first-class style, he was. We fail to see room for indignation, when his newspaper friends punctuated every line of the obituaries with a tear. It isn't every man who gets a good farewell.

Going to Get Well.
Mike Gurnley, who was shot in the stomach by John Walsh, has rallied from the shock and is now getting along as well as could be expected. His physician says he thinks he will get well. The wound is about an inch to the left of the navel, and the physician thinks it likely the ball did not go straight in, but struck the covering of the bowels and glanced around. If this is true, his chances of recovery are good.

A Sweet Assembly.
Chicago, Feb. 4.—Eighteen firms engaged in the fruit-preserving business in Detroit, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Peoria, St. Louis and Chicago were represented at the meeting here yesterday. The meeting was for the purpose of forming an Association similar to those of other manufacturing industries.

Winter Goods Cheap.
In the nick of time comes the advertisement of Messrs. A. B. Chinn & Co. to sell a large stock of blankets, woolen and cotton underwear at a great discount. If you have a dollar and a half spent before the closing sale began.

The Democrats in Kentucky have been defeated with heavy losses by the British.

A NEW DEPARTURE IN PUBLIC SALES

Quality, not Quantity, the Motto.

W. R. BRASFIELD'S

Lexington Combination Sale Of

186

Select Horses.

LEXINGTON, KY.

February 23, 24, 25, 1886.

Consisting of high-bred, trotting stallions, Cossacks and blood mares, the get of the most noted sires in the world. The consignments are from the prominent breeders of the country, and are choice selections from their respective studs. I have determined to give more attention to the quality and high breeding of the stock in my sales, and my relations with the various prominent breeders of the country will enable me to do so successfully. I am confident no public sale has contained a finer list of horses than is now offered. They represent the great sires, George Wilkes, Dictator, Mammoth Patchen, Almont, Strathmore, Daniel Lambert, American Clay, Jay Gould, Belmont, Blackwood, Clark, Chief, Jay Bird, Lamplighter, Yogram, Robert, Governor Sprague, Ashland, Chief, Onward, Red Walker, Redwood, Alyson, Seward, Mammoth, Ironsides, Princeps, Redfield, Mammoth, Hambleton and other noted sires. All positive, rich or saline, without reservation or breed. Catalogues now ready. Apply to

W. R. BRASFIELD.

LUXURIES.

Raisins, Nuts, Figs, Prunes, Chocolate Creams and bonbons, Crystallized Fruits, Florida Oranges, Mince Meat and Plum Pudding

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OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Florida and California Oranges.

Concord and Malaga Grapes. Every Variety of Fine Fresh

French Candles.

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OYSTERS

DAILY BY EXPRESS.

NEW YORK COYSTS, THE FINEST OYSTERS THAT GROW, A SPECIALTY.

Cranberries Fresh and Fine, Quicksacks of every description

Special orders to parties and festivals. Call and get a hot glass of Soda.

W. T. JEWELL & CO.

1886.

J. L. MORTON & CO

—HAVE—

Merchants' Account Books,

Diaries, Almanacs,

Bill Paper and Cards.

J. B. M. & Co. take subscriptions to American and Foreign Periodicals, receive new publications every week, import books to order from London, and have Printing, Binding and Engraving done at reasonable rates. Jan 23rd

JAMES RUMSEY,

—Manufacturer of—

WAGONS, DRAYS, CARRIAGES, BENCHES, AND Repairer of all kinds of

Painting Implements!

124 EAST SHORT STREET, LEXINGTON, KY

Jan 23rd

Dress Goods

AT COST.

J. H. CRUTCHFIELD

NO. 13 WEST MAIN ST., LEXINGTON, KY.

Has reduced his large line of elegant dress goods and is now selling out at very low prices.

His stock of Flannels, Blankets, Woolens of all kinds, and Winter Underwear, is large, bought very low, and will be sold at Short Profits.

My goods are bought for Prompt Cash at the lowest possible prices; my expenses are light, and my rate of profits small. I therefore can and will sell goods very low.

JOHN H. CRUTCHFIELD.

23 Jan

DE LONG & CO.,

LEXINGTON, KY.

Dealers in farm and garden seed, bar ware, farm implements, carriages, buggies, phaetons, carts, and hand made harness and

FLYING DUTCHMAN, SULKY FLOWS.

—ALSO AGENTS FOR—

O. S. Osborne & Co.'s Self-Runners and Mowers, Korbner Water Elevator, Russell Chilled Plow, Thompson's Seed Mower, Acme Pulverizing Harrow, Tinsmith's 3-Point Mower, Thomas' Sowing Harrow, Old Hickory Wagon, Parlor's Wagon, M'Cook's Patent Siding and Double Trees, Gum and Leather Belting.

Full Line of Farm

—AND—

Garden Seed.

CALL AND SEE US!

—THE—

BREMNER GROOVED PICKET

—AND—

Wire Fence.

Mr. Bremner can be Found at 74 South Mill Street.

23 Jan

—LEXINGTON—

Roller Mills Flour.

Use Cream or Favorite.

Ask Your Grocer for It.

Jan 23rd

J. W. BERKLEY. H. A. GUTHRIE. J. L. WATSON.

Berkley, Guthrie & Watson,

—Foreign and Domestic—

DRY GOODS,

18 and 20 North Upper Street, Opposite Courthouse,

Lexington, - Kentucky.

Feb 6

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E. L. O

—AND—

PURE JAVA BRANDS

—OF—

Roasted Coffee.

FOR SALE IN THIS CITY.

PERFECTLY PREPARED

—AND PUT UP IN—

FOUND PACKAGES

—BY—

E. LEVERING & CO.,

No. 2 COMMERCE STREET, BALTIMORE, MD.

—CALL AT—

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—FOR FIRST-CLASS—

CARRIAGES

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BUGGIES

We will give you bargains in anything in our line.

REPAIRING.

Now is the time to have your carriages and buggies repaired, and we will do you first-class work. Call and see us for our prices, or send us word, and we will call and see you.

Baker & Bros.

—AND—

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23 Jan

Don't be lulled by generally, and make a specialty of the best and most durable of all the different classes, and have them in cedar, oak, chestnut and ash, and from 10 to 25 feet long. Special agent for the Carolina Wire and Steel Fence.

23 Jan